

Following is a summary of important business news published in the leading daily newspapers of Bangladesh. For the complete news, please follow the online link given below each news. Please note that the news summary doesn't reflect the opinion of BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Limited.

Macro:**Taka gains ground under flexible rate regime**

- Local currency taka has started to gain strength against the US dollar for the first time in several years, as a steady inflow of foreign currency drives down the official exchange rate. Over the past five days, the inter-bank rate for selling dollars has fallen by BDT 2.20. As of Monday, it stood at BDT 120.1, down from BDT 122.3 on July 9, according to the Bangladesh Bank (BB).

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/taka-gains-ground-under-flexible-rate-regime-3939836>

Investor confidence wavers

- While the continued decline in foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh remains a cause for concern, the first quarter of 2025 showed signs of promise. It reflects growing unease about the country's investment climate and long-term competitiveness but also presents an opportunity that can be harnessed through timely reforms and consistent, investor-friendly policy actions.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/investor-confidence-wavers-3939791>

Dhaka gears up for 3rd round of talks to avert US tariff shock

- Bangladesh will launch the third round of negotiations with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) next week, aiming to secure a more "rational" tariff structure before the August 1 deadline, said Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin yesterday.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/dhaka-gears-3rd-round-talks-avert-us-tariff-shock-3939376>

Current account deficit shrinks by USD 5.68 Bn in 11 months of FY25

- A surge in remittance inflows and stronger export performance have helped narrow Bangladesh's current account deficit by USD 5.68 Bn in the first 11 months of FY25. According to Bangladesh Bank data, the current account deficit stood at USD 432 Mn during July-May of FY25, down sharply from a USD 6.12 Bn deficit in the same period of FY24.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/current-account-deficit-shrinks-568b-11-months-fy25-1187556>

Tax intel unearths BDT 18.74 Bn tax evasion in Dec-Jul period

- Income Tax Intelligence and Investigation Unit (ITIUI) has uncovered BDT 18.74 Bn in tax evasion after preliminary investigations into 183 taxpayers during the December-July period.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/tax-intel-unearths-tk-1874b-tax-evasion-in-dec-jul-period-1752516774>

Call money market falters amid trust deficit

- The call-money market's vibrancy continues to wane as trust deficit in the banking sector prompts the switch of the affluent banks' surplus funds to the state-secured standing deposit facility (SDF) despite lower gains.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/call-money-market-falters-amid-trust-deficit-1752516739>

7.2 Mn taxpayers with TINs do not file returns, says NBR chairman

- The National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan has revealed that 7.2 Mn individual taxpayers do not file their income tax returns despite having a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). He said among those who do file tax returns, around 3 million are not paying income tax.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade-market/72m-taxpayers-with-tins-do-not-file-returns-says-nbr-chairman-1752515234>

Korean envoy for further aligning EPZ act with its labour law

- South Korean Ambassador Park Young-sik has called for further aligning Bangladesh's Export Processing Zones (EPZ) Act 2019 with its Labour Act 2006 to create more conducive environment for foreign investors. Highlighting the importance of labour productivity, he also underscored the need for enhancing operational efficiency of the Chattogram port, terming it key to facilitating smoother trade operations.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/korean-envoy-for-further-aligning-epz-act-with-its-labour-law-1752514822>

Market framework must be drawn to ensure meaningful reform impact

- The country's capital market lacks an underlying policy framework, which is why it has failed to thrive and play its intended role in the economy, speakers said at a discussion on Monday. Mr Khosru said a large number of big foreign portfolio investors, including Bangladeshi immigrants, were keen on investing in the country's capital market. "But they become frustrated when they see the nominal market-cap-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio, which lays bare the country's overall financial asymmetry."

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/stock-corporate/market-framework-must-be-drawn-to-ensure-meaningful-reform-impact-1752514750>

Sector & Industries:**TEXTILES | US tariff on Bangladesh: An urgent wake-up call for our RMG industry**

- The declaration by US President Donald Trump to impose a 37% tariff on imports of readymade garments (RMG) from Bangladesh has been the primary concern for our exporters over the past few months. Of course, Bangladesh will face two major challenges: US retailers and buyers will look for sources with lower tariff options, and orders will shift to new destinations. The US tariff will undoubtedly increase the retail cost of garments in the USA, which will reduce demand and ultimately decrease the volume of exports.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/us-tariff-bangladesh-urgent-wake-call-our-rmg-industry-3939461>

FURL & POWER | BD moves to renegotiate power tariffs with plant owners

- Bangladesh has initiated the move to re-negotiate tariffs with the power-plant owners to reduce "excessive" tariffs or "additional" costs as inscribed in the power-purchase agreements (PPAs) inked during the previous Awami League government. State-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) has picked the 718 MW JERA Meghnaghat plant as the first one to initiate tariff re-negotiations, industry insiders said.

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bd-moves-to-renegotiate-power-tariffs-with-plant-owners>

BANK | 17 more banks team up with govt to boost universal pension scheme

- The National Pension Authority (NPA) has teamed up with 17 more private banks to facilitate registration, contribution collection, and the integration of application programming interfaces as part of efforts to implement the universal pension scheme.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/17-more-banks-team-govt-boost-universal-pension-scheme-3939341>

TRADE | China exports beat forecasts in June

- China's exports rose more than expected in June, official data showed Monday, after Washington and Beijing agreed a tentative deal to lower swinging tariffs on each other. Data from the General Administration of Customs said exports climbed 5.8 %year-on-year, topping the five %forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/china-exports-beat-forecasts-june-3939196>

TEXTILES | Bangladesh keen to boost RMG raw material imports from South Korea

- Bangladesh's ready-made garment entrepreneurs have expressed strong interest in expanding trade relations with South Korea through increased imports of raw materials and greater apparel exports, officials said during a high-level meeting in Dhaka today (14 July).

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-keen-boost-rmg-raw-material-imports-south-korea-1188291>

TRADE | Ctg customs to auction 475 containers to ease port congestion

- The Chattogram Custom House is set to auction 475 long-stored containers of goods in an effort to reduce congestion at the Chattogram Port and free up crucial space. While customs authorities estimate the auction could generate around BDT4 Bn in revenue, they stress that easing the container pile-up is the paramount objective.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/ctg-customs-auction-475-containers-ease-port-congestion-1188281>

BANK | Bangladesh Bank buys USD 171 Mn at higher rate in first-ever auction

- In an unprecedented move, the Bangladesh Bank has for the first time purchased USD 171 Mn from commercial banks through an auction, responding to a sharp tendency of the dollar exchange rate to fall because of increased greenback inflow into the market. Crucially, the central bank set a cut-off rate of BDT121.50 for these dollar purchases, a rate higher than the approximately BDT120 offered by most banks. This strategy ensured that even banks willing to sell dollars at lower rates received a higher price, according to experts.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/bangladesh-bank-buys-171m-higher-rate-first-ever-auction-1187541>

AGRICULTURE | Jute exporters count addl usd 100/tonne as freight cost

- Jute-goods exporters now wobble under pressure of mounting transportation costs for using sea route, stakeholders say, as Indian land-port ban on Bangladeshi exports takes its toll. Due to the restrictions in a trade spat evidently following the July uprising in Bangladesh--millers and exporters are now forced to send jute goods by sea from Chittagong seaport to Nhava Sheva Port in Maharashtra in the West Coast of India from where goods are transported to Kolkata by road in a distant detour, they say. As a result, the jute millers and exporters say, the cost of transportation of cargo per tonne increased by USD 100, making the item uncompetitive.

<https://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/first-page/jute-exporters-count-addl-100tonne-as-freight-cost-1752516500>

Stocks:**ISLAMIBANK | BFIU seeks bank account details of Islami Bank chair, family**

- The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has sought bank account details of Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud, chairman and independent director of Islami Bank Bangladesh, and his family members. The anti-money laundering agency has instructed banks to submit all relevant information and documents of accounts related to Masud, in the names of his family members or in any other names connected to their interests, by July 15.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/bfiu-seeks-bank-account-details-islami-bank-chair-family-3939811>

PRIMEFIN | BSEC to write to ACC seeking action against directors of 3 prime finance firms

- The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has found evidence of BDT 2.96 Bn in money laundering involving Prime Finance & Investment Limited and its two subsidiaries – PFI Securities Ltd and Prime Finance Capital Management Ltd.

<https://www.tbsnews.net/economy/stocks/bsec-write-acc-seeking-action-against-directors-3-prime-finance-firms-1188081>

Stock and Commodities*

Index Name	Close Value	Value Change YTD	% Change YTD
Crude Oil (WTI)*	USD 66.60	(USD 4.83)	-6.76%
Crude Oil (Brent)*	USD 68.88	(USD 5.51)	-7.41%
Gold Spot*	USD 3,354.25	USD 745.77	28.59%
DSEX	5,061.83	-154.61	-2.96%
S&P 500	6,268.56	361.62	6.12%
FTSE 100	8,998.06	877.05	10.80%
BSE SENSEX	82,253.46	4,053.53	5.18%
KSE-100	136,502.55	21,243.55	18.43%
CSEALL	18,838.39	2,893.78	18.15%

Exchange Rates**1 US Dollar = 121.18 BDT****1 GBP = 162.79 BDT****1 Euro = 141.48 BDT****1 INR = 1.41 BDT**

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